THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Irrigation is a State subject and irrigation projects are investigated, formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments. The State Governments are required to obtain investment clearance from the Planning Commission in respect of Major and Medium Projects only. No information is kept at the Centre regarding surveys carried out by the States.

Soil Erosion by Koshi

2327. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the soil erosion on the bank of Koshi River in Bihar particularly in Sopaul, Saharsa and Khagariya districts during the last three years;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to save the people from being rendered homeless due to it;

(c) whether any financial assistance has been provided to Bihar to check the same during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Anti erosion works are planned and implemented by the State Governments out of their own plan funds as per priority fixed by them. The State Governments have been taking various anti erosion measures in the form of bank protection, revetment, spurs/studs, bed bars etc. to check erosion.

Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared comprehensive plans for flood management of river Kosi, Kamla Balan, Adhwara Group of rivers which are responsible for flooding and erosion in the districts of Sopaul, Saharsa and Khagaria districts. These plans have been sent to the State Government for implementation.

(c) and (d) Financial Assistance of Rs. 1.5 crore has been provided to the State Government of Bihar during the last three years for flood proofing schemes. In addition, Rs. 11.86 crore has been released towards maintenance of Kosi embankment in Nepal territory which are maintained by Government of Bihar.

[English]

Pollution Related Diseases

2328. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to press reports, an estimated 7500 persons died in Delhi alone in 1996 due to pollution related diseases;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the number of people died premature death in the country by air pollution during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) No data is available about the number of deaths due to pollution. However, apart from providing health education and medical care for the patients, the Government have launched several measures to control pollution.

[Translation]

Development of Technical Education

2329. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take any action regarding investment by the private sector and their participation in the development of technical education and encouraging more and more educational institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) Investment and Participation by private sector in establishing non-commercial, financially viable and academically sound technical institutions conforming to the norms and standards prescribed by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) are always welcome. More than 60% of the existing technical institutions are in the private sector.

Works on NHs in UP

2330. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh on which the widening, extension and repair work has been started during the period from January, 1995 to till-date and the time by which such work is likely to be started on the remaining National Highways in the State; and

(b) the details of the estimated expenditure incurred in this regard so far, and the total quantum of funds allocated for this propose during 1995-96 and 1996-97?